

WARRIOR

Year of the B-2

Vol. 4 No. 39
October 4, 2013

*Whiteman hosts
'bomber bash'
Pg. 8*

MISSION
COMMANDER
COL M FRANCIS

PILOT
MAJ J KENNISH

DCC
TSGT TIMMONS
ADCC
AIC LEAVITT
AIC TANKSLEY

80329

**131st Bomb Wing
unveils flagship**

MOANG adds colors to "Spirit of Missouri," Pg. 11

Reduced services during government shutdown

With the government shutdown now in place, we want to provide you with information on which support functions will be available/unavailable here at Whiteman AFB. We regret any inconvenience associated with shutdown-related closures, and ask for your patience as we work through this challenge together. Please contact the owning organization if you have questions regarding a specific function.

Available Services:

- Child Development Center and School Age Programs will operate as normal.
- Military Personnel Section (e.g. ID cards) will remain open; however, wait times may be affected.
- Base fire and emergency response services will operate as normal.
- Base Dining Facility will operate as normal.
- All emergency service calls (e.g. HVAC, plumbing, electricity, and carpentry) will operate as normal, although response times may be affected.
- All law enforcement and security functions will operate as normal.
- All non-appropriated (NAF) functions are exempted and will operate as normal, including the Club, Golf Course, Lodging, and Bowling Alley.
- All education and testing capability (PME/CDC testing, counseling and TA support) will be limited.
- Voicemail services will operate as normal.
- AAFES will remain open.
- Intramural sports games will continue; however, squadrons must provide volunteer officials

MEDICAL GROUP:

- Possible delays/waits for care, but we will still be able to provide care for our beneficiaries.
- Limited outreach classes from our Mental Health Services (Love and Logic Parenting class, Anger Management, & New Parent Support Services).
- HAWC classes will be canceled.

FACILITIES:

- Base commissary will be closed until further notice.

Unavailable Services:

- Airman and Family Readiness Center will have limited services.
- Dorm Residents postal delivery will cease. Residents will need to come to the Post Office to pick up their mail.
- Dorm common room Internet services will cease.
- Cable TV service in military buildings will cease; family housing residents will not be affected.
- Grounds maintenance and litter patrol will cease; units must remove litter/debris from around their buildings and in common areas.
- Outdoor Recreation hours will be reduced to 20 hours/week; all trips/tours will be cancelled.
- Auto Hobby Hours will be reduced to 20 hours/week.
- Base Library will close.
- Community Activity Center will close.
- Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT) will close.
- Fitness Center exercise classes will be limited; a new schedule will be available at the Fitness Center.

THE WARRIOR

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The Sedalia Democrat
Layout and Design

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The deadline for article submissions to the Warrior is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submissions does not guarantee publication.

For more information, call the Warrior office at 660-687-6123, email: Whiteman.Warrior@us.af.mil, fax us: 660-687-7948, or write to us at: 509th Bomb Wing, 1081 Arnold Ave., Bldg. 59, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

To advertise in The Warrior, call the Sedalia Democrat at: 1-800-892-7856.

On the cover

U.S. Air National Guard photo/
Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison
The “Spirit of Missouri” became the official flagship of the Missouri Air National Guard’s 131st Bomb Wing at a ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 27, 2013. From left to right: Maj. Jared Kennish, 110th Bomb Squadron commander; Col. Michael Francis, “Spirit of Missouri” flagship pilot and 131st Bomb Wing commander; Tech. Sgt. Michael Timmons, dedicated crew chief; and Airman 1st Class Scott Leavitt, assistant dedicated crew chief.

Team Whiteman,

As many of you are aware, a partial government shutdown occurred at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday morning due to no continuing resolution or military appropriations bill being passed by Congress.

As a part of the federal government, the Air Force and other armed services will experience several immediate effects on our people and our operations.

Starting Tuesday, the majority of Team Whiteman’s civil service force is furloughed for the duration of the government shutdown. Just as with the furloughs this summer, they are prohibited from working and may not volunteer their services. These civilians are an integral part of our mission and workforce, and their absence will have a negative impact on our mission.

As a result of a bill passed by Congress and signed by the president Monday, military members will continue to receive their pay during the shutdown. For civilians, the situation is more complex. Civilian employees designated as “excepted” from the furlough, who continue to work, will earn pay and receive it when the shutdown ends. Civilians, who are furloughed, however, will only receive back pay if specifically appropriated by Congress.

If, as a result of the furloughs, you begin experiencing financial hardships, talk to your chain of command. Any financial hardship you experience as a result of the shutdown is not your fault and you should not be afraid to ask for help. Additionally, if you need money, please be careful about where you turn. Many predatory loan businesses offer quick cash at exorbitant rates. Talk to your first sergeant or commander if you need help.

Above all, please remember that we are a family. Some members of Team Whiteman will be hurt more by this than others, but it is incumbent upon all of us to watch out for our Wingmen, whether they are civilian or military, to help them through the next few weeks.



Respectfully,
Tom

THOMAS A. BUSSIÈRE
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander

NEWS BRIEFS

October coat drive

The Whiteman Airman's Attic has partnered up with Balfour Beatty to have an October coat drive. We will both be accepting gently used coats for all ages at their offices between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. They can also bring them to the Airman's Attic Tuesday and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or leave them in our shed in behind the building. We are shooting for 100 coats.

We need donations to keep coming in to keep operating. We have so much going out, so we need stuff to keep coming in as well. Our furniture side is getting very bare.

For more information, contact Tiffany Kalin, the WAFB Airman's Attic coordinator at 405-795-9347.

Knob Noster State Park volunteer events

Free WildHeart concert: Oct. 5 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the campground amphitheater. Reception to follow

Fall clean-up/project day: Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the Visitor Center for work assignments including park roadside and interior trash clean-up, trail construction and rehabilitation, and exotic species control. Bring work gloves, sturdy closed-toe shoes, insect repellent and water. Volunteers should pre-register for this event so we can plan enough projects. To register call (660) 563-2463 by noon Oct. 11.

Hispanic Heritage Month events

Kids event: This will be held at the Whiteman Chapel Annex today from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

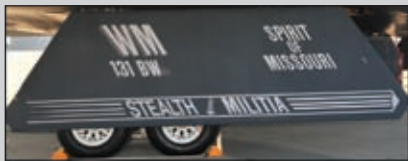
Closing celebration: This will be held at the Missouri Air National Guard Armory on Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Telephone news line set up for retirees

A toll-free telephone news line has been set up for retirees and surviving spouses who do not have computer access.

By calling 1-800-558-1404, retirees and spouses can stay informed using this new easy-to-use menu-driven service. Callers can select from several different topics that are compiled from various electronic news sources.

Topics include pay and annuity matters, medical and health care, and other benefits and entitlements.



WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Chance of Showers
Hi 87	Hi 63
Lo 66	Lo 60

Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Sunny
Hi 60	Hi 70
Lo 41	Lo 41

Whiteman AFB Fire Emergency Services urges residents to 'Stand By Your Pan!'

Tim Robinson

Whiteman Fire Emergency Services chief

How often has the doorbell chimed or a child interrupted you while you were cooking, causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove - until smoke filled the house?

If this scenario or a similar one sounds familiar to you, it's likely that you, a friend or family member has run the risk of starting a dangerous fire. As chief of the Whiteman Fire Emergency Services here at Whiteman, I often talk to people about the ways they can stay safe in their homes.

Too often, we have that talk after they've suffered a damaging fire.

It's my hope that people reading this article won't have to learn the hard way. If I could give just one fire warning, I'd say, "Keep an eye on what you fry!"

Why? Because cooking is the leading cause of home fires, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The latest statistics from NFPA say U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007 and 2011.

We're joining forces with NFPA and thousands of other fire departments across North America to commemorate Fire Prevention

Week, Oct. 6-12.

The theme this year, "Prevent Kitchen Fires," reminds us that leaving cooking unattended, in addition to other unsafe kitchen practices, is a recipe for disaster.

Often when we're called to a cooking-related fire, the residents tell us they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. The bottom line is that there's really no safe period of time for the cook to step away from a hot stove. A few key points to remember:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you must leave the room even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home and use a timer as a reminder.

- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).

- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.

- If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. If in doubt, get out of the home and call the

fire department.

- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, do not remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

- If an oven fire starts, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

A cooking fire can quickly turn deadly. I have seen too many homes destroyed and people killed or injured by fires that could have been easily avoided. Please heed these simple safety rules. We firefighters would like to be in your kitchen, but only when you invite us for dinner!

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities on Whiteman AFB, please contact the Whiteman AFB Fire Emergency Services at 660-687-6083 or 660-687-6080. To learn more about "Stand By Your Pan!", visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

For more information, contact me at 660-687-6080.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson

Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander, signs the Fire Prevention Week proclamation Sept. 10, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. This year, Fire Prevention Week is from Oct. 6-12 and focuses on preventing kitchen fires.



U.S. Air Force/Courtesy image

CFC kicks off at Whiteman

Capt. Kenneth French

709th Munitions Squadron operations officer

From now until Nov. 22, members of Team Whiteman can participate in the Combined Federal Campaign and give to a charity or organization of their choosing to help touch the lives of people in military communities across the nation and around the world.

For 2013, the CFC goal for Whiteman is \$140,000; Whiteman's 2012 CFC total was a staggering \$147,000!

This year, CFC representatives are aiming to not only make 100 percent personal contact with all assigned unit personnel, but make sure base members are informed about the CFC and its impacts.

The CFC is the only authorized charita-



Contributed graphic

Whiteman Air Force Base's goal for this year's Combined Federal Campaign is \$140,000.

ble-giving drive for employees in the federal workplace. Established by executive order in 1961, it continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world. Over the years, the CFC has become a powerful way to help neighbors in need around the corner, across the nation and throughout the world. Since 2005, Team

Whiteman has raised more than \$1 million.

Some of the CFC charities include the Global Children's Foundation, the American Urological Association Foundation and the Meals on Wheels Association of America. With more than 2,500 charities from which to choose, contributors can find and support causes that have personal significance.

Donations can be made on a one-time or monthly basis, and start at as little as \$5 per month using a payroll deduction form, provided by CFC representatives.

Contributors have the option of leaving their donations undesignated, in which case the funds will be given to organizations on an as-needed or emergency basis.

For more information visit www.heartlandcfc.org or contact your unit representative.

OSS Airman wins Spirit Award



U.S. Air Force photo/Jennifer Greene
U.S. Air Force Col. Kristin Goodwin, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, presents the Spirit Award to U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Emily Luzum, 509th Operations Support Squadron intelligence analyst, Sept. 25, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Luzum also received the Diamond Sharp award from Whiteman's first sergeants for her accomplishments.

Accomplishments

Airman 1st Class Emily Luzum is not only involved on base and in the community, but her work performance is also exemplary. She is one of only two Airmen allowed to brief the wing commander. She manages the Intel-

ligence Oversight program, which is directed by the President of the United States and is the only item that could fail the unit on an inspection; the program received an "Outstanding" rating during the Consolidated Unit Inspec-

See Spirit, page 6

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AFGSC Outstanding Airman of the Year visits Whiteman

Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The 2012 Air Force Global Strike Command Outstanding Airman of the Year visited Whiteman Sept. 25-26 to interact with Airmen and hear their thoughts on improving the Air Force.

Senior Airman Bryenna Breckheimer visited squadrons within the 509th Bomb Wing to gather information on improving Airmen's work environments, careers and the base itself.

Breckheimer said she was impressed with her visit to Whiteman.

"It was fascinating to see the B-2 Spirit and explore the many shops at Whiteman," said Breckheimer. "Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly, and the morale seems to be great. I'm really excited to be joining the 509th Medical Group in November; it's a team I look forward to being a part of."

Along with receiving in-depth tours and communicating with Airmen around the base, there are numerous challenges that come with being the Outstanding Airman of the Year.

"The most challenging part is not having served very much time in the Air Force, but it was also rewarding because I learned a lot while being an OAY," said Breckheimer. "My role was to listen and gather all the concerns

Whiteman Airmen had to share, and to represent the Air Force in a professional way."

Many Whiteman Airmen presented a wide variety of concerns and questions to Breckheimer, touching on issues ranging from enlisted performance ratings to out-processing.

Breckheimer said the more persistent Airmen are about their concerns, the more likely it is things will eventually change for the better.

Her time at Whiteman has left a lasting impression on the Airmen here, said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Umfleet, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron superintendent.

"Breckheimer is extremely humble and that is a leadership trait I admire greatly," said Umfleet. "An award of this magnitude can go to a person's head, but she's using this as a stepping stone not for herself, but to help change the Air Force for the better."

The Outstanding Airman of the Year program awards 12 enlisted Airmen this honor every year, and recognizes a cross-section of Air Force career fields. Nominated personnel compete in one of three categories-- Airman, NCO or senior NCO. Nominations are based only on the member's performance and achievement for the prior calendar year. Although only the prior year is used for nominations, nominees must also pass a certain level of scrutiny of their total life and career, as they are expected to be the most outstand-

ing representatives of the Air Force enlisted group.

Being chosen as an OAY is no easy task. Breckheimer recently deployed to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, where she was attached to the 101st Sustainment Brigade in a joint-service effort of Operation Enduring Freedom. During her deployment, she provided direct medical support to the unit at Bagram, as well as 13 forward-deployed locations. During this time, she traveled more than 3,000 miles as a convoy medic, provided 24-hour care to more than 1,000 personnel, and served as the lifeline during 25 successful missions.

Breckheimer also received the Purple Heart for injuries she sustained during a rocket-propelled grenade attack. Despite being wounded herself, she helped treat fellow members of her team, saving the lives of four injured comrades.

Aside from her breadth of medical experience, she has provided mentorship, both in the local and foreign community. She also volunteered to fill sandbags to reinforce a weakened levy, served as a Starbase Youth Mentor for more than 30 children, and was an honored recipient of Operation Fan Mail during the NFL opening day kickoff. While at her deployed location, she dedicated more than 80 hours toward Troop Medical Clinic expansion, educated more than 250 Afghans on sanitation and hygiene efforts, and tested 200 blood units for the critical blood bank at Afghan National Army Hospital.



Senior Airman Bryenna Breckheimer, 2012 Air Force Global Strike Command Outstanding Airman of the Year, speaks with Airmen from the 509th Medical Group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 25, 2013. As a medical professional herself, Breckheimer dedicated more than 80 hours toward Troop Medical Clinic expansion, educated more than 250 Afghans on sanitation and hygiene efforts, and tested 200 blood units for the critical blood bank at the Afghan National Army Hospital while deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.



Senior Airman Bryenna Breckheimer, 2012 Air Force Global Strike Command Outstanding Airman of the Year, visits with Airmen from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 25, 2013. As part of her tour, Breckheimer learned about how each shop contributes to the Whiteman mission.

Senior Airman Bryenna Breckheimer, 2012 Air Force Global Strike Command Outstanding Airman of the Year, visits with Airmen from the 509th Bomb Wing Command Post at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 25, 2013. Many Whiteman Airmen presented a variety of concerns to Breckheimer, on issues ranging from enlisted performance ratings to out-processing.

*U.S. Air Force photos/
Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry*

Spirit Continued from Page 4

tion. She was requested by name by the 509th Operations Group command chief to augment the fitness assessment cell for 45 days and she is a certified PTL. She has organized seven successful flight morale trips to various places within Missouri. She has briefed the 509th Bomb Wing command chief on Airmen's quality of life plans and has been coined by him, as well as her squadron commander.

She is actively involved in other high-visibility activities. She is the vice president of the Airman's Council, the 509th Operations Support Squadron "Wing It" representative, the 509th Bomb Wing Airman "Wing It" representative to the Board of Directors at the University of Central Missouri, treasurer of the unit advisory council and the 509th Bomb Wing Airman mentorship coordinator.

Moment in history: Oct. 5, 2001

At 11:35 p.m. local time, two B-2 Spirits from the 509th Bomb Wing departed Whiteman and flew combat missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, America's response to terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Crews flying the "Spirit of Mississippi" and the "Spirit of Louisiana"

launched from Whiteman and flew sorties lasting 43.5 and 43.2 hours, respectively. They returned to Whiteman Oct. 8, 2001.

(Courtesy of the Office of the Historian, HQ Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.)



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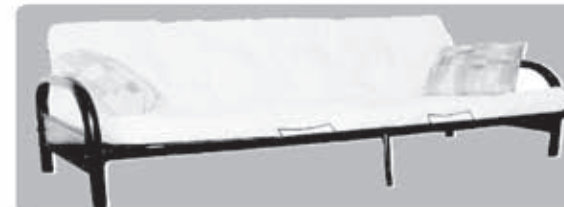
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Rain clouds part as Whiteman hosts Year of the B-2 Gala

Air Force celebrates 20th Anniversary Gala

By Capt. John Severns

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Members of Team Whiteman, the 509th Bomb Wing, the 131st Bomb Wing, Northrop-Grumman Corporation and guests across the country gathered here Sept. 28 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the arrival of the first B-2 Spirit stealth bomber to Whiteman Air Force Base.

The Year of the B-2 Gala celebrated the day 20 years ago, on Dec. 17, 1993, when the Spirit of Missouri touched down at Whiteman Air Force Base and was delivered to the 509th BW. Over the next several years, the rest of the B-2 fleet arrived at Whiteman and was put to work defending America with its dual missions of strategic deterrence and global strike.

The event also celebrated the Air Force's 66th birthday.

Retired Lt. Gen. Ron Marcotte, who commanded the 509th as a brigadier general in 1993 and received the first B-2, attended the Gala as the keynote speaker and reminisced about the experience of preparing a new wing for a revolutionary aircraft.

Getting Whiteman ready for the arrival of the B-2 required millions of dollars

in construction, and saw the base's purpose shift from supporting a missile wing to a bomber wing. The airfield, which was used only intermittently during the 351st Missile Wing's tenancy, had to be ready to support the world's most sophisticated and advanced weapon system.

All of this was possible through the hard work of a team of dedicated Airmen, the general said.

General William Fraser III, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and a former B-2 pilot and 509th BW vice wing commander, was also present, as were nearly a dozen other previous 509th commanders and vice commanders.

Former Congressman Ike Skelton spoke briefly toward the end of the program. It was Mr. Skelton who announced, back in 1988, that the Advanced Technology Bomber, as the B-2 was then known, would be based at Whiteman AFB.

Being able to see Team Whiteman develop from those humble beginnings into the bomber force that celebrated 20 years of success was a tremendous gift, Skelton said.

Among the 500-some attendees were members of the Gala Committee, who dedicated countless hours as volunteers transforming Bldg. 52, an old aircraft hangar, into the formal ballroom used for the event.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley

The Year of the B-2 Gala at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 28, 2013, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the B-2 Spirit's arrival at Whiteman Air Force Base in 1993. The event featured a thrilling operational history of the B-2 and numerous photo opportunities with the aircraft.



U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Capt. John Severns

Former and current 509th Bomb Wing commanders and vice commanders pose for a photo in front of the Spirit of Missouri at the Year of the B-2 20th Anniversary Gala Sept. 28, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. From left to right: Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, Maj. Gen. (s) Scott Vander Hamm, Maj. Gen. Robert Wheeler, retired Maj. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, retired Lt. Gen. Christopher Miller, Gen. William Fraser, retired Lt. Gen. Ronald Marcotte, Cozette Hoefer, retired Maj. Gen. Douglas Raaberg, Col. Kristin Goodwin, retired Maj. Gen. Michael McMahan, Col. Ricky Rogers, Col. Robert Spalding, and Col. Andrew Gebara.



U.S. Air Force photo/
Master Sgt. Matthew Osborn

During the Year of the B-2 Gala at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 28, 2013, a rainbow made a brief appearance over the "Spirit of Missouri." The gala celebrated the 20th anniversary of the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, which made its first landing at Whiteman in December 1993.



Enforcers win intramural softball championship, prepare for next challenge

The Security Forces-A team poses for a group photo after being crowned as the 2013 intramural softball champions Aug. 28, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base. Mo. Next month, the team will head to the All World Sports East Coast Nationals/Military Worlds in Savannah, Ga., from Oct. 11 to 13.

By Neil Liles
509th Security Forces Squadron

The Security Forces-A team recently won the intramural softball championship game, and will next head to the All World Sports East Coast Nationals/Military Worlds in Savannah, Ga., from Oct. 11 to 13.

The “Enforcers” from the 509th Security Forces Squadron ran through AMXS and avenged a regular-season loss against CE during this year’s playoffs on the way to their final win of the 2013 intramural softball season. In their final contest, they defeated the 20th Recon-

naissance Squadron team by a score of 21-4 during a game Aug. 28.

Throughout their 11-game season, the Enforcers out-scored opponents 206 to 98 and had an average of 20.6 runs per game.

“My favorite part of the season was seeing all of our hard work pay off and ultimately winning the base championship,” said Daniel Comer, a patrolman with the 509th SFS and the team’s shortstop. “I’m still new to the base and the guys I have played with this year really taught me a lot of great things about softball and adapting to the Air Force.”

The only game that prevented the SF-A play-

ers from going undefeated was an early-season 16-6 loss against the talented Civil Engineering team. The Enforcers’ chance for payback came during the playoffs, where they were victorious against CE in a 25-16 game.

“CE was definitely one of the best teams on base,” said Comer. “I was on vacation during the first game against them, but when the rematch came around we were very excited to get the opportunity to go head-to-head with them again.

“When that game started, the tension was very high between us, but after the first few innings we got back to our game plan and increased our playing tempo,” he added.

The Enforcers’ winning season was directly attributable to their hard work and game-time strategy.

The most satisfying part of the season was seeing young baseball and softball players transform into a real team that worked together, not as individuals. From the start, SF-A’s game plan focused on playing “small ball,” and winning games by getting base hits and being aggressive on the bags.

In the championship game, SF-A defeated the 20th RS by a final score of 21-4.

The Enforcers have bolstered their roster by adding talent from the 20th RS and chaplain’s corps as they prepare for the next level of competition. They have molded another cohesive team as they continue to participate in the Warrensburg Fall League, where they are currently 4-0, winning by scores of 17-15, 38-2, 19-8 and 21-6.

The team is developing their game plan for their next big challenge – competing at the All World Sports East Coast Nationals/Military Worlds in Savannah, Ga., from Oct. 11 to 13. They will match their will and determination against competition from across the Department of Defense. Members of units from Fort Irwin, Calif., all the way to those of the Maryland Air National Guard, will be a part of the tournament.

“Worlds are going to be exciting. We are going to see some of the best teams from around the DOD,” said Comer. “We are very competitive and are all very anxious to get to Georgia so we can put our talents to the test.”

Best of luck to the “Enforcers” as they travel and represent the 509th Bomb Wing in Georgia this month.

This story was written with assistance from Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley from the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office.



Kyle Douglass, 509th Security Forces Squadron, plays in a softball game against a local team Sept. 27, 2013, in Warrensburg, Mo. The SFS-A team will head to the All World Sports East Coast Nationals/Military Worlds in Savannah, Ga., from Oct. 11 to 13 to compete against other teams from throughout the Department of Defense.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley



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Hagel says national security assured during shutdown

SEOUL, South Korea (AFNS) -- The Defense Department and other government agencies responsible for national security will carry out their missions despite the government shutdown, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Oct. 1 here.

The secretary, traveling in the Asia-Pacific region this week for high-level meetings here and in Japan, sat down with reporters traveling with him to explain what is known, and what isn't, as nonessential government services are temporarily mothballed.

The secretary said he left last night's state dinner honoring the U.S.-South Korea alliance, at which he spoke, "a little early" for a teleconference with Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter, comptroller Bob Hale and acting general counsel Robert Taylor. During that conversation, he said, the four discussed possibilities for minimizing the shutdown's effects on some 400,000 civilian employees who will be furloughed.

"Our uniformed military are taken care of" and will be paid, the secretary said, because President Barack Obama signed that exemption. Hagel said most Defense Department civilians who will be furloughed will receive official notification when they report to work today, and "will be asked to go home." Those who are exempt from the shutdown will remain at work and will be paid, he added.

Government agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget, have issued guidance to the civilian workforce in recent weeks on how to implement a shutdown. Hagel said the department is working to identify whether some civilians may be called back from furlough based on the nature of their du-

ties, but he cautioned the question might not be answerable immediately.

"Our lawyers are now looking through the law that the president signed ... to see if there's any margin here, or widening in the interpretation of the law of exempt versus nonexempt civilians," he said. "But it's a priority that we have, that we're working on right now. It's, in fact, the priority in our general counsel's office."

Hagel will again consult with other Pentagon leaders later this evening -- Seoul is 13 hours ahead of Washington -- to further manage the adjustments the shutdown forces on the department.

The secretary noted he has been asked repeatedly by South Korean officials here why the shutdown occurred. Hagel, this week, called the action irresponsible, and he said today it affects "our relationships around the world."

He added, "It cuts straight to the obvious question: can you rely on the United States ... to fulfill its commitments to its allies?"

The secretary continued, "Here this great republic and democracy, the United States of America, shuts down its government. The Pentagon, even though we are exempted -- our military -- has no budget. We are still living under this dark cloud of uncertainty, not knowing what's going to happen."

The shutdown affects missions around the world, the confidence of the nation's allies and planning for pending budget cuts, he said, but core missions will be carried out.

"We're going to be able to fulfill our mission of keeping this country ... secure, we will fulfill our mission of maintaining the al-

liances we have and our troops in South Korea (and) Japan, and other treaty obligations," Hagel stated.

He warned, however, that the shutdown casts a significant pall over America's credibility with its allies.

"It is nonsensical ... it is completely irresponsible," the secretary said. "It's needless. It didn't have to happen. And I would hope that our Congress can find a new center of gravity of responsibility, and start to govern."

Hagel said the shutdown "puts us all in a very difficult spot." A strong military is essential to the nation's security, he said, but civilian employees, not only in DOD, but across government, also play a vital role in that mission.

"To think of what this is doing to these civilian employees and their families ... they've taken furloughs already this year -- administrative furloughs," the secretary said. "Now we have legal furloughs. This is going to impact the future of a lot of our employees."

Hagel said a number of senior DOD civilians have spoken to him in recent months about their future.

"Their spouses are not happy; they have families -- (they ask) how can we rely on a paycheck, how can we rely on a future ... when this is the way we're going to be treated?"

He added, "And I don't blame them. That human dimension often gets lost in this great arena of debate in Washington -- what we're doing to our people ... who make the government function."

Without quality employees, he added,

"you will have a dysfunctional system; a dysfunctional government. This is serious."

Military and civilian leaders from himself and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- who is also in Seoul this week -- on down have sent out messages this week to the military and civilian workforce and "are upset about" the shutdown, Hagel said.

"When you take that number of civilian employees out of the mix of everyday planning and working ... you're going to impact readiness," he said. "There's no point in kidding about that. But (Americans) should not be concerned that their security is now in jeopardy. It is not; it will not be."

Hagel said he tries to reassure civilian employees, but he knows the events of the last year haven't been "very reassuring to people who have begun to build very promising, important careers, and their families rely on that -- their wives, their husbands, their children. To see this kind of uncertainty, now, become almost a regular dimension of their career is very unsettling, and I don't try to convince them otherwise."

Hagel said he does believe "we will find a new center of gravity of governing in the United States of America; I think we are seeing an evolving new coalition of governance start to appear."

It may take an election cycle or two for that evolution to take hold, Hagel said.

"I do have confidence in our country," he said. "I do have confidence in our people ... (and) almost a uniquely American self-correction process. We can fix our own problems, and we always have."

131st Bomb Wing unveils flagship



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison

From left to right: Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander; Col. Michael Francis, 131st Bomb Wing commander; Col. Kenneth Eaves, 131st BW vice wing commander; and Col. Kristin Goodwin, 509th BW vice wing commander, pose for a photo at the "Spirit of Missouri" unveiling ceremony, Sept. 27, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The "Spirit of Missouri" became the official flagship of the Missouri Air National Guard's 131st BW.

Whiteman commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month

U.S. Air Force Col. Kristin Goodwin, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, signs the Hispanic Heritage Proclamation at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 15, 2013. National Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, and recognizes the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans and celebrates the group's heritage and culture.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

Oct. 4, Friday:
Hispanic Heritage kids event at the Whiteman Air Force Base Chapel Annex from 3: 30 to 5 p.m.

Oct. 17, Friday:
Closing celebration at Missouri Air National Guard Armory from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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